

MORE • VALUE • FOR • YOUR • DOLLAR**HOW TAX DOLLARS BUY CITY SERVICES**
WHAT THE AVERAGE BLOOMINGTON HOMEOWNER PAYS**HISTORY SPOTLIGHT**

In Bloomington, the first snow plow consisted of a plow attached to a cart pulled by a team of horses. It wasn't until the early 20th century that the first gas-powered dump trucks and plows were introduced. Today, Bloomington has plows and dump trucks that clear an average of 40 inches of snow per year, taking as little as 14 minutes to clear a one-lane mile.

RESIDENTS RECEIVE a wide variety of City services at an affordable price. The cost of City services in 2007 for the owner of a median-priced, single-family home in Bloomington with an assessor's market value of \$247,900 is \$61.81 per month. Utilities remain competitively priced in 2008. The value received from City services compares favorably to charges for other monthly bills.

Net property tax cost is obtained by subtracting all revenue sources other than the property tax from departmental expenditures. Water and sewer utilities are fee-based.

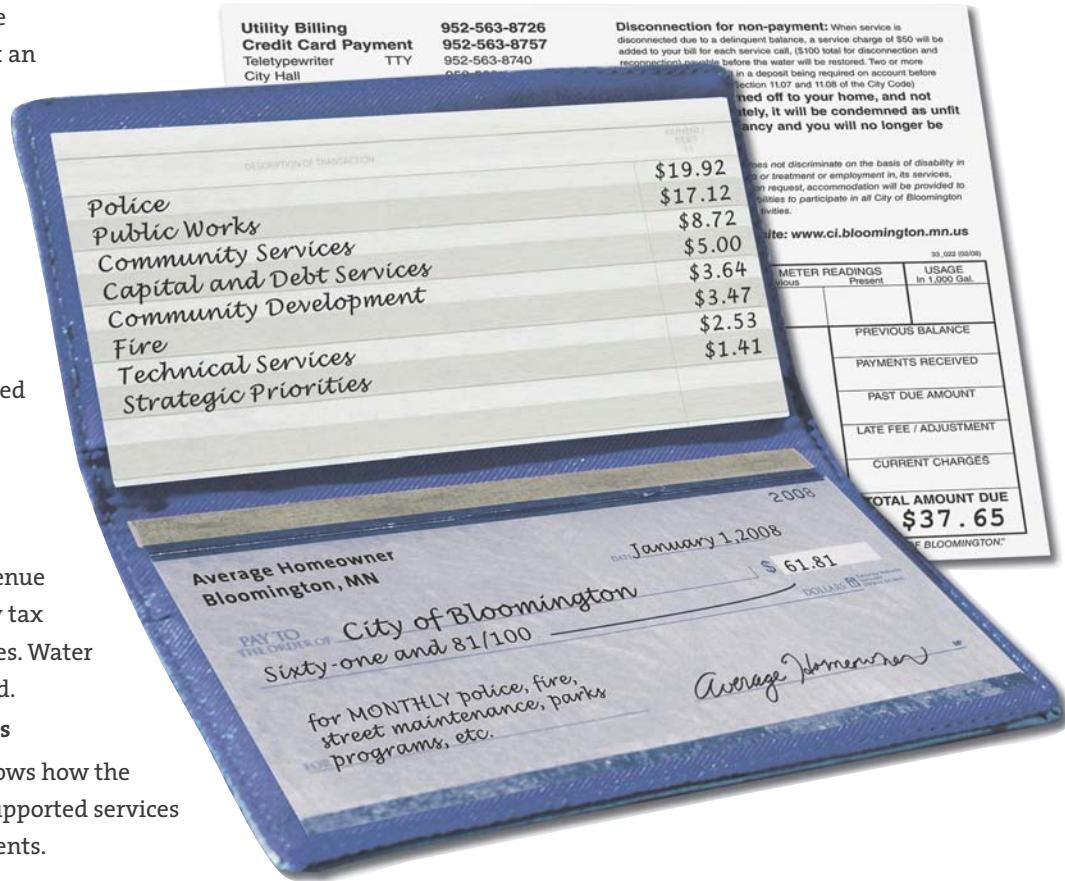
Property tax-supported services

The checkbook, at right, shows how the monthly cost of property tax-supported services is divided among City departments.

Monthly cost of utilities

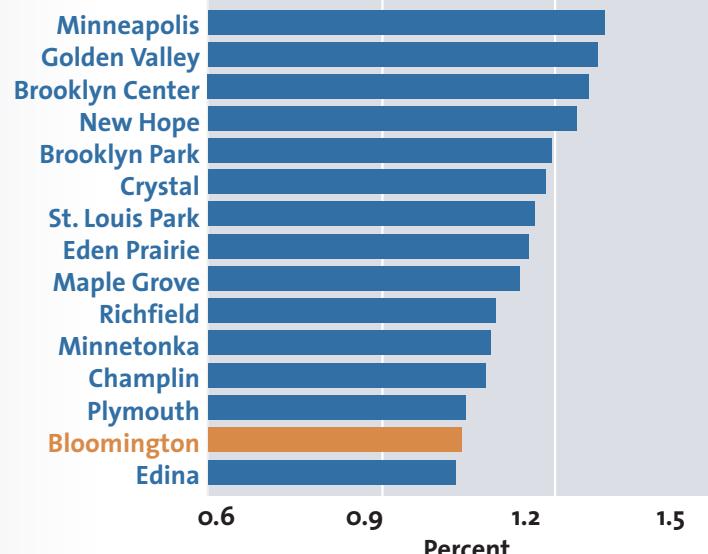
Based on an average usage of 7,500 gallons per month, monthly cost of utilities for a home in Bloomington is \$37.65 in 2008. See above illustration. Services include water, sewer, stormwater and solid waste.

Note: Water bills are mailed bimonthly and average \$75.30 per bill.

**People of Bloomington****Mayor/City Council****Commissions****Authorities****City Manager****Community Development****Community Services****Finance****Fire****Human Resources****Legal****Police****Public Works****Technical Services****CITY OF BLOOMINGTON ORGANIZATIONAL CHART**

BLOOMINGTON'S CHARTER provides for a council-manager government, which marks its 50th anniversary in 2008. The stability of our organization is reflected in the City having had only two city managers in the last 41 years.

The City Council and Mayor, who serve part time, are elected by the people, exercise legislative power and determine all City policies. Advisory boards and commissions gather information and advise the City Council on specific issues. Policy development and day-to-day operations are directed by the Council-appointed City Manager. The City Manager oversees the eight departments and the Technical Services Group that carry out the services, activities and policies of the City of Bloomington.

2007 SINGLE-FAMILY EFFECTIVE PROPERTY TAX RATE
PROPERTY TAX AS PERCENTAGE OF AVERAGE HOME'S VALUE**MEETING DEMANDS IN QUALITY CITY SERVICES****BLOOMINGTON RANKS WELL IN TAX RATE COMPARISON**

THE CITY continues to meet the needs of its residents while finding ways for improvement and keeping costs affordable. In a 2007 comparison of 15 communities in Hennepin County with more than 20,000 residents, the effective tax rate for a single-family home in Bloomington ranked second lowest at 1.038 percent. The effective tax rate is the total of property taxes from all jurisdictions (City, School, County, etc.) divided by the average value of a home in each community. This rate shows the cost effectiveness of services in terms of what the average homeowner pays.

YOUR 2008 TAX DOLLAR

YOUR TAX DOLLAR is divided among several governmental entities. As the graphic shows, for every dollar of taxes paid, 33 cents are for City services.

The actual amount of taxes owed is based on market value, tax law and the levy. The levy for all local governmental entities is spread across properties within each entity's respective boundaries using tax capacity, a function of market value and property type. After applying educational aids, a Bloomington homeowner with a median-valued home pays \$2,524 in property taxes. Of that, \$742, or \$61.81 per month, goes to the City for services. The remaining \$1,782 goes to the School District, County and other taxing districts.



41¢ Hennepin County

33¢ City of Bloomington

16¢ Bloomington School District

10¢ Other agencies

1920



Bloomington is home to 1,330 residents.

1947



Bloomington Volunteer Fire Department is established with 25 members. Fire Station #1 is built.

1953



Police Department forms at cost of \$2 per taxpayer.